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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

Strengthening of the National Geological Service
(SOM/78/004)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	June 1979
Starting date of project activities:	December 1978 (Including preparatory assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Mineral and Water Resources
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$755 600
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Since 1962, UNDP has been providing the Government of Somalia with assistance in the field of mineral and groundwater survey in three consecutive phases and more recently, since 1975, with assistance in strengthening the Geological Service within the Ministry of Mineral and Water Resources. Since 1977 the Geological Service has been divided into three technical departments - the Geological Survey Department, the Hydrogeology Department and the Petroleum and Mining Department. The predecessor project, Strengthening of the National Geological Service (SOM/74/015), had as its main objective to develop the Government agency into a functioning, semiautonomous Geological Service capable of executing detailed geological, geochemical, geophysical and

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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hydrogeological surveys throughout Somalia and to undertake research work on specific mineral and groundwater exploration problems, etc. Although previous project activities led to the creation of a nucleus of a Somali Geological Survey, it was not possible, for a variety of reasons, to develop a functioning Geological Survey within the scope and the duration of the previous UNDP assistance. One inhibiting factor was internal administrative constraints which could not be overcome by the UNDP-assisted project at the time. The work of the National Geological Service, however, has resulted in the findings of adequate and economically viable deposits of several non-metallic minerals which has enabled Somalia to construct a cement factory and to proceed with the establishment of gypsum, ceramic and glass industries. In addition, investigation of deposits of uranium have shown considerable promise and may lead to a joint venture involving a bilateral donor. Furthermore, favourable geological conditions for mineral oil occurrences have been registered in several large areas of the country.

2. Recognizing the vital need for evolving exploration techniques suited to the covered areas and for a systematic exploration and geological mapping of the entire territory aimed at establishing an inventory of its mineral and groundwater resources, the Government of Somalia has requested further assistance from UNDP which has been approved under the present project. Under a preparatory assistance phase of the project, the teamleader designate helped officials of the Geological Service to plan the project. It is expected that with a systematic, integrated geological survey programme, the Government will be able to provide the basic data necessary to attract investment capital to explore and exploit mineral resources in quantities presently unknown in Somalia.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objective of the project is to up-grade the capacity of the Geological Service for carrying out work programmes related to assessing, promoting and controlling the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources. To this end the national and international staff working together will: (a) organize an effective geological survey and mineral exploration programme; (b) co-ordinate all geological investigations within Somalia; (c) develop capability in the petrological and mineralogical fields; (d) develop improved capability in cartography; (e) establish a map-producing facility; (f) publish geological maps and reports; and (g) arrange for in-service training of Somali professionals in the required disciplines.

III. Inputs

4. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for: the services of one exploration/mapping geologist, one mineralogist/petrologist, one geological cartographer and one United Nations Volunteer as a workshop mechanic; five fellowships in geological library systems, geological cartography, analytical chemistry and in mineral exploration /mining respectively; and supplies and equipment.

5. The Government will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	55 400	516 250	587 650
Sub-contracts	-	13 000	13 000
Training	-	60 650	60 650
Equipment	15 000	159 700	174 700
Miscellaneous	1 000	6 000	7 000
	71 400	755 600	843 000

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $817,500, of which $404,500 is in kind and $413,000 is in cash (local currency).

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